

CLAIMS:

1. A coupling apparatus for mounting an add-on passenger restraint system to a vehicle seat having an anchorage, the retractable coupling apparatus comprising:
  - a retractor affixed to the add-on passenger restraint system,
  - a coupling member,
  - an extension member having opposing ends wherein one end is attached to the retractor and the other end is attached to the coupling member, and
  - wherein the coupling member is configured to engage the anchorage.
2. The coupling apparatus of claim 1, wherein the retractor normally tends to withdraw the extension member inwardly into the retractor.
3. The coupling apparatus of claim 2, wherein the retractor comprises a positive locking retractor.
4. The coupling apparatus of claim 3, wherein the positive locking retractor comprises a release member to unlock the retractor to allow the extension member to be drawn out of the retractor.
5. The coupling apparatus of claim 4, wherein the release member comprises a button.
6. The coupling apparatus of claim 4, wherein the release member comprises a cable.
7. The coupling apparatus of claim 1, wherein the coupling member is an articulating connector.
8. The coupling apparatus of claim 1, wherein the coupling member is a snap hook connector.
9. The coupling apparatus of claim 1, wherein the add-on passenger restraint system is a portable child seat.
10. The coupling apparatus of claim 1, wherein the add-on passenger restraint system is a booster seat.
11. The coupling apparatus of claim 1, wherein the coupling apparatus conforms to one or more governmental standards.
12. The coupling apparatus of claim 1, wherein the governmental standard comprises FMVSS 225.
13. The coupling apparatus of claim 1, wherein the governmental standard comprises FMVSS 213.

14. A coupling apparatus for mounting an add-on passenger restraint system to a vehicle seat having an anchorage, the retractable coupling apparatus comprising:

a portable child seat,

a retractor affixed to the portable child seat,

an extension member comprising a first end and an opposing second end, the first end being attached to the retractor, and

a coupling member attached to the second end of the extension member, wherein the coupling member is configured to engage the anchorage.

15. The coupling apparatus of claim 14, wherein the retractor normally tends to withdraw the extension member inwardly into the retractor.

16. The coupling apparatus of claim 15, wherein the retractor comprises a positive locking retractor.

17. The coupling apparatus of claim 16, wherein the retractor further comprises a release member to unlock the retractor to allow the extension member to be drawn out of the retractor.

18. The coupling apparatus of claim 1, wherein the retractable coupling apparatus is configured to thread upwardly through an upper tether redirection system attached to the vehicle proceeding downwardly away therefrom to mate with the anchorage.

19. A method of mounting an add-on passenger restraint system to a vehicle having an anchorage, the method comprising the steps of:

placing on the vehicle's seat an add-on passenger restraint system comprising a seat portion,

mounting to the seat portion a coupling apparatus comprising

an automatic locking retractor comprising a release member,

a coupling member, and

an extension member comprising one end attached to the retractor and a second end attached to the coupling member,

engaging the coupling member and the anchorage.

20. A coupling apparatus for mounting an add-on passenger restraint system comprising a seat portion having spaced apart side portions to a vehicle seat having an anchorage, the retractable coupling apparatus comprising:

a retractor affixed to each of the spaced-apart sides of the add-on passenger restraint system,

a coupling member comprising a connector that conforms with government standards,

an extension member having opposing ends wherein one end is attached to the retractor and the other end is attached to the coupling member,

wherein the coupling member is configured to engage the anchorage, and

wherein the retractor is an automatic locking retractor comprising a release member, the retractor tending to withdraw therein the extension member until the release member is actuated.